Please amend Claims 1, 19, 52, 70, 103 and 104 as follows:

1. (Amended) A response apparatus comprising:

status acquisition means for acquiring a status;

response content determination means for determining a

response content in accordance with said acquired status;

response information preparation means for preparing

response information for a response medium in [accordance with]

text form by combining a message corresponding to said determined

response content with an opening or closing phrase that is

characteristic of said response medium; and

response information output means for outputting said

prepared response information to said response medium.

19. (Amended) A response apparatus comprising:

status acquisition means for acquiring a status;

response procedure determination means for determining

response procedures in accordance with said acquired status;

response addressee determination means for determining a

response addressee depending upon said acquired status;

response information preparation means for preparing

response information in accordance with said determined response

procedures; and

2

response information output means for outputting said prepared response information to said determined response addressee in accordance with said determined response procedures.

52. (Amended) A response method comprising the steps of:

acquiring a status;

determining a response content in accordance with said acquired status;

preparing response information for a response medium in [accordance with] text form by combining a message corresponding to said determined response content with an opening or closing phrase that is characteristic of said response medium; and

outputting said prepared response information to said response medium.

70. (Amended) A response method comprising the steps of:

acquiring a status;

determining response procedures in accordance with said acquired status;

determining a response addressee depending upon said acquired status;

preparing response information in accordance with said determined response procedures; and

3

outputting said prepared response information <u>to said</u> <u>determined response addressee</u> in accordance with said determined response procedures,

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103. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a response program for controlling a computer to transmit a response, said program comprising codes for enabling said computer to perform the steps of:

acquiring a status;

determining a response content in accordance with said acquired status;

preparing response information <u>for a response medium</u> in [accordance with] <u>text form by combining a message corresponding to</u> said determined response <u>content</u> <u>with an opening or closing</u> <u>phrase that is characteristic of said response medium</u>; and

outputting said prepared response information <u>to said</u> <u>response medium</u>.

104. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a response program for controlling a computer to transmit a response, said program comprising codes for enabling said computer to perform the steps of:

acquiring a status;

4